

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application and claims in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application.

Claims 6, 7 and 25-29 have now been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 6, 7 and 10-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated as allowable. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 23 and 24 were rejected.

Claim 1 has now been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in original claim 6.

New claims 30-32 have now been added. No new matter has been added. Support for the new claims can be found, for example, in original claims 1, 7, 9, 10 and 12.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 8-24 and 30-32 will be pending.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,084,842 to Stonitsch et al. ("Stonitsch"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 of the present application has now been amended so as to recite the features of allowable claim 6. *See* Detailed Action, Page 3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is allowable. Because claims 2-5, 8, 9, 22 and 23 depend

from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5, 8, 9, 22 and 23 are also allowable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 7 and 10-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 has now been amended so as to recite the features of allowable claim 6, which has now been cancelled. New independent claims 30-32 respectively correspond to claims 7, 10 and 12 rewritten in independent form as described below.

V. New Claims

New independent claim 30 recites the subject matter of allowable claim 7. New independent claim 31 recites the subject matter of allowable claim 10 (including the subject matter of intervening claim 9). New independent claim 32 recites the subject matter of allowable claim 12.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 30-32 are allowable for at least the same respective reasons as claims 7, 10 and 12 are.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, including any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 12-1216.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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